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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/053,555 | 01/24/2002 | Tadao Ookawa | Q68175 | 3320 |

7590 10/02/2002

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EXAMINER

DINH, TUAN T

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 2827 | 3 |

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/053,555 | OOKAWA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Tuan T Dinh | 2827 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.

- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 January 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 12 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inaba (U.S. Patent 5,737,837).

As to claim 1, Inaba discloses a junction flexible wiring circuit board (8, column 3, lines 54-55) as shown in figures 1-5 comprising:

a metal layer (2, column 3, line 23) formed as a front surface layer of said junction flexible wiring circuit board (8-see figure 1).

As to claim 2, Inaba discloses the flexible wiring board (8) as shown in figures 1-5 further comprising:

a plurality of wiring circuit patterns (3-see figures 2 and 4, column 3, line 22) disposed at intervals of a predetermined distance; wherein said metal layer (2) is formed at least in a position opposite to said wiring circuit patterns (3).

As to claim 3, Inaba discloses the flexible wiring board (8) as shown in figures 4B-4C wherein a width of each of said wiring circuit patterns (3) is not projected out from a width of said metal layer (2).

As to claim 4, Inaba discloses the flexible wiring board (8) as shown in figures 1-5 wherein

a width of said metal layer is formed to be not smaller than a sum of a total width of said wiring circuit patterns and a total width of intervals between said wiring circuit patterns; and

a width of each of said wiring circuit patterns is not projected out from the width of said metal layer.

As to claim 5, Inaba discloses the flexible wiring board (8) as shown in figures 1-5 wherein each of said wiring circuit patterns (3) is provided with at least one of write line and at least one of read line (the wiring patterns 3 can be used such as signal lines of a flexible wiring board capable of being as a write and read lines to an electrically communication to a magnetic header 10-see figure 3); and said metal layer includes a write line side metal layer portion opposite to all of said write lines, and a read line side metal layer portion disposed at a predetermined distance from said write line side metal layer portion so as to be opposite to all of said read lines.

As to claim 6, Inaba discloses the flexible wiring board (8) as shown in figures 1-5 wherein: a width of said write line side metal layer portion is formed to be not smaller than a sum of a total width of said write lines and a total width of intervals between said write lines; a width of each of said write lines portion is not projected out from the width of said write line side metal layer portion; a width of said read line side metal layer portion is formed to be not smaller than a sum a total width of said read lines and a total width of intervals between said read lines; and a width of each of said read lines is not projected out from a width of said read line side metal layer portion.

As to claim 7, Inaba discloses the flexible wiring board (8) as shown in figures 1-5 wherein said metal layer (2) is formed on a side of said junction flexible wiring circuit board (8) on which a terminal portion connected to said suspension board is provided.

As to claim 8, Inaba discloses the flexible wiring board (8) as shown in figures 1-5 wherein said metal layer (2) is formed substantially uniformly in the lengthwise direction except portions where the terminal portions are provided.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ohno et al. disclose related art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T Dinh whose telephone number is 703-306-5856. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Talbott can be reached on 703-305-9883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-1341 for regular communications and 703-305-1341 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

TD
September 27, 2002.

Albert W. Paladini 9-27-02
ALBERT W. PALADINI
PRIMARY EXAMINER